DE SEVIGNE.

THE GREAT FRENCH WRITERS.

MADAME DE SEVIGNE. By Gaston Boissier. I lated by Nelvulio B. Anderson. 16mo. pp. Chicago: A. C. McClurg & Co. It is a commendable enterprise for an Am house to undertake the translation and publication of the new and in many ways admirable series of monographs on the great French writers. These little books, five of which have already appeared, are models of their kind. They are not formal biographies, their purpose being to present as complete a picture as possible, accompanied by a compact, perspicuous commentary and exposition which should realize the character, aspect and behavior of the celebrity under study with clearness and fulness. The writers of the monographs are all men of established literary reputation and several of them are masters of style.

The first of the series is "Madame de Sevigne,"

by M. Gaston Boissier, who has accomplished his task with equal grace and judgment. He divides his subject into three principal heads: The Woman, the Writer, and the Worker, and discusses and examines each carefully and interestingly. Madame de Sevigne is a woman who will always be attractive, even though her letters should cease to be read; and perhaps already, outside of a select circle in France, these letters have begun to occupy the higher shelves in bookeases. At the beginning of the present century her memory was kept greener. She enjoyed the rare distinction of admission to English ladies schools, where her letters were employed as models of style and treasuries of chaste and tender sentiment. It is probable that when Becky Sharpe received her education at Miss Pinkerton's Academy for Young Ladies, on Chiswick Mall, she was nstructed in Gallic ethics from the pages of Madame de Sevigne, and learned to turn French | Herald. sentences by studying the style of that charmingly natural and brilliant writer. This was a tribute to the purity of the Frenchwoman, which, wrung as it was from the prudery of British Philistinism, cossesses considerable significance. Nor can there be any doubt that Madame de Sevigne deserved the implied compliment, and that she should have done so, living and writing when and how she did, is a still higher guarantee of her superiority

It was difficult for a Frenchwoman of noble birth and breeding, attached by many ties to the Court, thrown continually into the highest society of the period, to live, during the reign of Louis the Fourteenth, an altogether exemplary life. Social morals are no doubt to some extent questions of the period, but the period mentioned, while less thoroughly and hopelessly corrupt than that of the Regency, was what would be considered now-even in the time of the Republic-extremely free and easy. There was about it a certain per fume of aristocracy which, however associated with profligate morals and frivolous lives, is one indication of a kind of life possessing, from the aesthetic point of view, an interest not to be found in many more robust and essentially dignified and useful states of society. Amiel described the old French noble salons very well in his " Journal," when he wrote-not especially of them, indeed "In society people are expected to behave as if they lived on ambrosia and concerned themselves with no interests but such as are noble. need, passion, do not exist. All realism is suppressed as brutal. In a word, what is called 'le grande monde' gives itself for the moment the flattering illusion that it is moving in an ethereal atmosphere and breathing the air of the gods. For this reason all vehemence, any cry of nature, all real suffering, all heetless familiarity, any genuine sign of passion, are startling and distasteful in this delicate milieu, and at once destroy the collective work, the cloud-palace, the imposing architectural creation raised by common consent. By the instructive collaboration of everybody concerned, wit and taste hold festival and the associations of reality are exchanged for the as sociations of imagination. So understood, society ls a form of poetry; the cultivated classes deliberately recompose the idyll of the past and the buried world of Astraea."

It was in such a society that Madame de Sevigne moved. Married at eighteen to a spendthrift who did not die too soon for the stability of his wife's fortune, the young widow at twentysix took that place in the salons of her time which she continued to hold to the end. She was sy, fond of admiration, liked to be courted and to have a train of followers, was always besieged by lovers, but never surrendered to them. Her purity was a constant source of wonder to her dissolute contemporaries, and it still perplexes M. Boissier, who is driven to explain it, with Bussy Rabutin, by supposing that she was temperamentally cold. She herself gave what, outside of France, may seem a more natural explanation. She said she had too much love for her children to have any to give to other people. Love for her children is in fact the dominant note in her life. She was devoted to them, and to her rather cross-grained daughter in a special way. But it can hardly be admitted that she had no love for others, for, as M. Boissier observes: "She was beloved because she loved others. Whatever may be said, this is still the surest way to win hearts; people only returned to her what she gave." She was indeed an ideal friend, and the secret of her escape from the intrigues into which so many eager lovers sought to urge her probably lies in the fact that she knew how to maintain all her relations with men at the stage of warm friendship, and how to prevent that stage being passed without losing the regard of those whose passion she disappointed.

She had not to fear loss of caste, for she asseciated constantly with great ladies whose reputstions were heavily tarnished. Simply, she did not choose to follow the common example. She had been disillusionized without losing her optimist disposition. She was cheerful and inspiring to all who knew her. One of the most curious traits of her character was her mental plasticity. babitually reflected the opinions of the society she had last frequented, and she knew this as well as anybody. Yet, while thus acting the part of a living phonograph, she did not permit public opinion to control her own conduct. It was a wretched condition of things which existed around her. The French nobility was on the verge of financial collapse. Everybody had become bankrupt in trying to live up to the extravagant standard of Versailles. Everybody looked to the King as the general almoner. The Court was a The greatest nobles good office-seeking mart. begged for places. Even Madame de Sevigne wrote: "We must not despair. What though we are not his body-servants; if we pay court to him, he may chance to let some droppings fall on us." The doctrine of the divinity that doth hedge a king was still accepted. The victims of royal caprice and tyranny did not venture to call in question the sovereign justice. They abused ministers roundly, but they bowed as to Providence when Louis was named.

Into this strange, artificial, frivolous, yet in many respects refined life, Madame de Sevigne entered with hearty appreciation. French society was then nothing if not critical in literary matters : and, as conversation was cultivated, men and women of wit and judgment were able to impose their opinions upon large circles, and there was some excellent talking done in which the brilliant widow took her full share. She conversed as she wrote, fluently, lucidly and easily. The charm of her letters is their complete naturalness. They are not intended for publication. The style of them is delightful, and chiefly, perhaps, because of their unaffect dness. The writer's thoughts flowed freely when she held a pen, and they arranged themselves gracefully. She discusses everything in these letters. They are a mirror of her period, and we can tell from them what were the prevailing topics at any time. The motive of them-of those to her daughter, at least -is motherly love, and never has it been more beautifully expressed. Her friendship, too, is testified to in the most charming ways. She always kept her friends. They could not get away from her; and to the last she enjoyed the esteem and

liking. She was witty and interesting; she had s fine style; she wrote quite enough above her period to give an elevated tone to her composition, and finally she left on record an unrivalled example of the noblest and deepest and purest of all human emotions-mother-love.

M. Boissier has shown her to us with distinctess. We see her in the salon, in her boudoir, at her country house, on journeys, visiting, and about ber chair we note the men who delighted in her company, and the women, her friends-all the gay, brilliant, and artificial people of the Court; all the literary abbes, all the poets and authors, all the makers of epigrams and society verse. It is a panorama which takes us far back and into an extinct world; a world, indeed, which we would not if we could rehabilitate, yet a glance into which is not without its attraction and its reward. And the picture of Madame de Sevigne's old age and death, is it not an agreeable end for this amiable worldling: "To live on without growing old, to feel alive and whole to the last, to preserve in maturity what is best in youth, vigor of mind and freshness of feeling, then, when the end has come, to find in the depths of the soul the beliefs of early years, and to fall softly asleep with a sure hope-is not this, for beings who live like us amid darkness and uncertainty, an enviable lot?"

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F FRNANDO'S ACADEMY, 162 East 55th-st. (Bank Rediding). A school for Dancing, Deportment and Calisthenic Exercises. Classes now forming. Send for G EORGE W. WALLACE'S CLASSES.
20 West 50th-st and HARLEM, 120th-st and 4th-

TRENOR'S. BROADWAY, 32D-ST.,
s the Leading Fashionable Dancing School of N. Y.
ns are given every day and evening. Circulars. MR. MANUEL will resume his classes, Wednesday, Dec. 5. Address Barrett House, Broadway and 43d-st.

WM. B. DE GARMO.

4 EAST 45TH-ST.

INSTRUCTION IN FASHIONABLE DANCING.

SALES AT THE CONSOLIDATED STOCK AND PE TROLEUM EXCHANGE. STOCKS

Names.	Open-	High-	Low-	Clos-	Shares
Atch Top & S F	56 1	57341	ati I	574	256
Am Cotton Oil	53%	64	53 12	54	(34)
Boston H & E New	17.0	14	As		100
the RI & P.	9.744	993	971	50934	500
the Bur & Quincy	107	1074	107	107%	200
anada Southern	51%	51%	6134	51%	304
hic St P M & O pref.	9834	9.61	98141	98%	100
the Col C & L	54 191	55	5419	55	388
on Gas Co	70	79	79	79	100
cologudo Coal	314	3134	31 1/2	314	100
olorado Cont.	60.4	62 %	60%	022%	20,77
hic Mil & St Paul	101%	106%	104%	10614	1,44
entral of N J	92%	1000 %	9254	9110	18
	23.0	23.4	23 %	237	20
el Lack & Western	137.5	1390	137 2	139	33,80
rel & Hiteson	11039	1200	126%	12630	10
Tenn Vir & Ga	9%	10	9%	10	30
Tenn vi de de de de	25%	25)4	25%	25 4	
East Tenn V & G 2d of		S. CONTROLS OF	1 35123717	14 (52)	
ake Shore	99.%	10034	994	200%	
omsville & Nashville	5434	5429	5430	5412	43
dissouri Pacific	70.5M	71%	70%	71%	3,00
do Kan & Texas	74. 1	14	135	13%	77
YLE& Western	25%	26%	25%	學等語	
New-York & New-Engl	300	40%	393	401 a	3,61
orthern Pacific pref	580	5934	57 m	5814	
Y Sua & West pref.	32%	32%	324	325	38
vor & West pref	50%	50%	50%	500	10
Y Y Out & Western	15	15	15	15	20
New-York Central	107	1075	107	1074	200
vew-York Sund West	0.41	10.74	11.14	94	100
for & West	17%	17%	17%	29 4	
Pregon Transcon	20	223 %	29		59
Olito & Miss	20%	20%	20%	2007-4	20
Billa & Reading	41774	47%	460	4774	36,10
tichmond & W Point.	24	24%	24	24.14	8,23
do pref	8379	83%	8934	82%	20
L & San Fran	24%	25	24%	25 61 %	20
t L & SanFran tref.	64.5	613 ₉	3074	367	10
ake Erie & Western	36%			1177	10
t P & Dul pfd	317.5%	9776	214	2114	30
Texas Pacific	21.4	21%	21 4	200	
nion Pacific	62	62%	82	624	1.00
Van St L & Pac pref	24	24	24	24	
Western Union	835	83%	83%	8374	2,58
Wheel & L E pref	585	60%	58%	60%	1500

BONDS. Circa & Ohio 48
Erre 2d Con.
Green Pay inc.
Nob & Ohio 48
Nor Pac 18
Phil & Read lat over it
P & Read lat over it
Tex Pacific 2d
Tex Pacific 18
West Shore 48
Total amount. 2,000 6,000 4,000 5,000 10,000 10,000 2,000 . \$68,000 CLOSING PRICES OF BOSTON STOCKS.

CLOSING PRICES OF PHILADELPHIA STOCKS.

Pennsylvania 55° Corecon Trans.

Reading 23° Corecon Trans.

Lehigh Valley 64 54° St. Paul.

Korth Pacific ord 56° 54° Reading Gen'ts

North Pacific ord 56° 51° Reading 1st pf

Lehigh Navigat's 61 51° Reading 2d pf

Weat New York. Bid. Asked. 1931₄ 291₈ 201₄ 621₅ 622₄ 893₄ 891₅ 901₄ 601₅ 772₄ 777₆ 611₅ 62

STRONG AND ADVANCING. STOCKS MODERATELY ACTIVE.

THE MARKET REFLECTING THE CHANGING ATTITUDE OF RAILWAY MANAGERS.

| Chic & E 1 | 1 orf | 93 s | 94 | 134 s | 134

113 - 113 - 113 - 113 - 113 - 113

1067, 10714 1067, 10714 1075, 10714 1075, 10714 1075, 10714 1075, 10714 1075, 10714 1075, 10714 1075, 10714 1075, 10714

214 214

55

7,540

South Carolina.
South Pacific.
Texas Pacific... 21
Fol & Ohio Cen.
Fol & O C pri.
Fol A A & N M.
22
Union Pacific... 62

SALES AT THE STOCK EXCHANGE-DEC. 17. THE GENERAL LIST.

Actual Sales. Closing. No shares opid. Higt. Low't Final. Bid. Ask'd sold. formation concerning the proposed plans of the wreckers? This condition which sets men holding responsi ble situations of trust to saying to each other "You're another." has not been brought about by the language recently used by the Interstate Commissioners. That Commission did not speak till the growth of a healthy public opinion forced it to and till holders of securities already had taken action that carried anxiety into the ranks of managers. It then did not speak strongly, when it said that proof of guilt was

methods which have been used to depress values

of stocks. It is to be hoped, for the honor of the

clans, there has been no cheating around the

board; that none of the managers have secured

their stock at the expense of their colaborers in

the field of wrecking. But it looks a little like it. Else why the violent attack on the integrity

of " our best friends" in columns which for so long

a time have enjoyed the advantage of early in

already had taken action that carried anxiety interested the ranks of managers. It then did not speak strongly, when it said-that proof of guilt was difficult to get, because "railway managers like all other law-breakers will not tell on each other." Laws are not passed with the expectation of preventing crime, but to make it perilous to violate them. It is unlawful to commit busilism, but if convictions depended upon the taken of accomplices there would be few convictions of and punishments for that crime. It is a detective who generally collects and furnishes the veidence where "honor" among the participants in a crime forbids "peaching."

The course of reformation now is moving along perhaps as rapidly as it can be expected to do, and no cne expects any management to plead guilty at the bur of public opinion to the accurations of mismanagement or of incompletancy. To-day's stock market in part reflects this changing condition. While there was some buying for London and some good buying by some homeing prices was a mederate attempt to close upon mode, there were the sharpest advances. The attempt, more serious than any heretofore, results and soling of traders who turn in and out a dozen times a day when the market developes of the cry "no business," and a realization that managers are being brought to book.

The dealings amounted to 321,813 shares. A large part of this was made up by the buying and selling of traders who turn in and out a dozen times a day when the market developes at the Stock Exchange, and therefore that the holders are less ready to accept profits of 1 to 2 per cent than heretofore. This is another feature that makes a change, or rather a strengthening of sentiment on the side of appreciation. In stocks where the short interest is small, or if large, as in Lake Shore, where little effort was made to recoup, the advance, although marked, was less than in such stocks as St. Parl, and the sum for the ten months is more than equal to a full year's charges. And this result is made with the rat

THE DAY IN THE BOND MARKET. Government bonds were dull and the asking prices were advanced 1-8 per cent, leaving quo-

tations as follows: U.S. 4 bg, 1891, reg. 108 1,108 1, U.S. cur. 6s, 1895, 22 U.S. 4 bg, 1891, con. 108 1,108 1, U.S. cur. 6s, 1897, 125 U.S. 4s, 1997, reg. 127 127 5 U.S. cur. 6s, 1898, 128 U.S. 4s, 1997, reg. 127 127 5 U.S. cur. 6s, 1898, 128 U.S. 4s, 1997, con. 128 128 5 U.S. cur. 6s, 1895, 119 U.S. cur. 6s, 1895, 119 U.S. cur. 6s, 1895, 119 Upst. Col. 3 65 s. 120 5

| Content Nation | Cont Total \$55,400,785 \$57,877,957 \$57,189,979
In London British consols advanced, and closed strong at 96 3-16 and 96 7-16 respectively for money and account. The Bank of England gained £6,000 bullion on balance. American railways opened higher and continued to advance till the close, leading rather than following the home market. At Paris French 3 per cents sold at 82.25 ex interest, and sight exchange on London was firm at 25.35 francs to the £.

| NW Extens'n 4s | 100.0 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 RAILROAD EARNINGS. DENVER AND RIO GRANDE. MEMPHIS AND CHARLESTON.

WHAT WAS DONE IN STOCKS.

The railway managers of the country are coming

to call each other, as a class, naughty names, and better still, some of the late apologists of railway

managers are beginning to tell the secrets of the

Total sales

2.25 .66 1.85 2.50 10.50

85 1.25 1.75 .69 .00 .51 .16 .65 .38 5.50 1.10 .25 33.00 .73 .10 1.20 4.00 4.00

Monday, Dec. 17-p. m.

18,555

MINING STOCKS.

Number of miles ... 163 163 Fourth week in Nov. \$9.507 \$5.582 Jan. 1 to Nov. 30... 210.586 234,214 KANSAS CITY, FORT SCOTT AND MEMPHIS. OREGON SHORT LINE.

Month of Oct. 1887. 1888. Differences Gross carnings. \$171.507 \$288.85 Inc. \$116.913 Operating expenses. 100.014 139.378 Inc. \$2.904

Net earnings for